

Milton R. Hanks

, Eureka, Utah

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION

2012 JUL 17 AM 11:50

OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNCIL

Federal Election Commission
Office of the General Council
999 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20463
Attention: Daniel Petalas,
Associate General Council for Enforcement

RE: Complaint, MUR#6594

Dear Sirs,

This letter is in response to your inquiry. In short, there never was, nor is ANY collusion, coordination or cooperation between myself and Chris Stewart or his campaign. I know people involved with his campaign. Connie Stewart is a good friend of mine. She is our county Republican Party chair and prior to the campaign I was a precinct chair. I also know her socially. I had no relationships with any of the candidates, including Chris Stewart, prior to the race. I had not met Chris Stewart until the fourth or fifth county convention we attended.

I ran for congress because I didn't think any of the candidates were good options, period. I started talking to people about possibly running as early as four years ago. I talked with Connie about it. She tried to get me to run in the fourth district but I didn't want to run against Congressman Matheson. She then suggested that I run for county commission. By the time I finally decided to run it was late in the campaign. She never encouraged me to run in the second district nor did any other candidate or their staff.

I don't feel that fellow candidates are enemies. I was friendly to everyone during the race. I knew I was very late entering and money would be almost impossible to raise. I decided to run what amounted to an "anti campaign". I could either campaign or I could raise money. Time would not allow both. I chose to campaign. I purchased no advertising. I made no mass calls. I tried to meet and talk with people face to face. I knew that politics has become a country club of big spenders and big organizations. I don't think that it's right. I felt that an average American could still wage a successful campaign and not spend a fortune. Had I entered a month earlier, I think I would be the nominee. People are tired of backroom dealing politicians. This complaint is sour grapes at best and has no facts to stand on other than the egos and wishful thinking of those filing.

I spoke with every candidate. I offered to help them set up booths, set up signs, carry stuff to their vehicles etc. and often did. On the morning of the convention I spoke with almost every candidate, some of them at length. I did speak with Chris Stewart and his wife. His wife is from the same area of Idaho that my mother grew up in and where my family has a ranch to this day. I

13044340221

13044340222

did ask him directly about the allegations in the letter and he denied them and I believed him. We talked mostly about that area of Idaho and I wished him good luck. I sat next to Bob Fuehr and his wife while waiting to speak.

I received copies of the "letter" from a couple of sources as mentioned in the complaint. It did occur to me that it might not have actually been sent. The morning of the convention I went to delegates and asked if they had received it. Some did and some didn't but I knew it had been sent. I can't imagine a candidate that had enjoyed over 50% approval rating for the entire campaign deciding to do anything as stupid as sending out a negative letter against himself! That's the craziest thing I've ever heard of. The other thing is that the letter was verbatim what was being told to me over the last week of the contest by signers of this complaint. It was in the exact same order and in the same verbiage. I don't think that was a coincidence.

About a week before the state convention we were at the Davis County convention. A few minutes prior to our going on stage I was called over to a group of the candidates. In this group were the four who have signed the complaint. This was unusual because Cheryl and Dave rarely even spoke to me. I was asked if I was ready to join "ABC". I had no idea what they were talking about. They said it was, "Anyone But Chris". They explained that whoever finished closest to Chris, the rest would pull out and support the number two candidate thereby maybe forcing at least a primary. I may think that such a plan is immoral, but it certainly is not illegal. However, Chuck Williams then said "he had stuff on Chris", and they were going to drop it on him right before the election when he couldn't defend himself. The others in the group were nodding their heads. It was then said that Chris lied about his military record and had been part of a letter in a previous campaign that I knew nothing about. At that time we were called on stage to speak.

The following Tuesday was the Millard County convention. Other than Chuck and Howard repeating the content of the future letter, there was nothing said in any speeches about the allegations. I thought maybe it was just frustration speaking on the part of candidates that were getting no traction with the voters. Later that week I was given the letter as described. I was furious. If this was a real thing, why wasn't it a key part of their campaign message for the last 3 months? Dave Clark had his loyal few. He lost much of the people's favor because, a few years earlier on the floor of the Utah house, he had given a standing ovation to a legislator that was charged with child molestation. Cheryl had even less support. She has run for office after office and has never fared well. Howard and Chuck were always in the low single digits. Chris was always far and away the leader with over 50% for most of the contest. I was also in the low single digits but was a second choice among many delegates. I wanted to beat Chris but I wasn't going to do it with a back room deal nor would I help him win with one.

The speaking order for state convention had been set shortly after the filing date closed. I spoke last. Out of my six minutes speaking probably less than one minute was spent on the letter and ABC. The ovations for my speech were for things said well afterward. I did say what was about to happen in the second round of voting with several candidates withdrawing and supporting Dave. On the second round of voting Chuck began his speech by repeating the message of the letter with some explicative's thrown in. The chair cut his microphone. Why, if it wasn't their letter, did they even bring its content up? Why did they make fools of themselves on stage by doing exactly what I said they would do and continuing the charade? Not one of them denied

ABC or their participation in it at that time. That's a group just stupid enough to have sent such a letter. I got up to speak last and said, "I told you so, I rest my case".

Why is it that when the electorate fails to see candidates as the magnificent and wonderful superior humans some candidates see themselves as, it has to be a "conspiracy"? Why isn't it that they just did not appeal to the electorate? Chris had the best organization. He spent a lot of money. And he simply won. I wish I had won. I did not. I ran an honest campaign. No behind the back dirty tricks were played. No collusion or plots were hatched by me on behalf of any other. If the letter had been written about any of the other candidates I would have attacked it just as vociferously. It has nothing to do with who it was about. It had to do with the fact that I was told what was coming. And come it did.

I lost. The other candidates lost. It's as simple as that. No one tricked us. There was no conspiracy, we just lost. The state party conducted an investigation and found nothing out of order. We need to realize that the people have spoken. Our country is too good for this kind of crap, nasty, politics. I have not retained council and have done NOTHING wrong. It's time to move on. We lost.

Sincerely

Milton R. Hanks

13044340223